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**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Amended) The protective cover of claim 8 wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.
3. (Previously Amended) The protective cover of claim 8 further including a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.
4. (Original) The barrier cover of claim 2 wherein the advertising display is a message of stenciled letters.
5. (Original) The barrier cover of claim 2 wherein the advertising display is an electrical/electronic circuit comprising one or more lighting elements configured to display a message or image.
6. (Original) The barrier cover of claim 2 wherein the advertising display is one or more magnetically mounted objects of a ferro-magnetic material disposed on metallic surface.
7. (Previously Amended) The barrier cover of claim 2 wherein the advertising display is hook-and-loop materials or a chalkboard surface.
8. (Currently Amended) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having two below-ground ends and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:
  - spaced-apart opaque front and back panels, each having a corresponding bottom edge, opposing side edges and a top edge; [[and]]
  - a side panel connecting the sides and tops of the front and back panels, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the

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ground surface; and

wherein the front and back panels smoothly transition through semi-circular side edges corresponding to the tubular metal guard rail.

9. (Previously Presented) The cover of claim 8, wherein the side edges smoothly transition in the top edge to create arc-shaped front and back panels that correspond to the semi-circular mid-section of the guard rail.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having two below-ground ends and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:

spaced-apart front and back panels, each having opposing bottom edges, side edges, and semi-circular top edges corresponding to the semi-circular mid-section of the guard rail; [[and]]

a side panel connecting the sides and tops of the front and back panels, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface; and

wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.

12. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 11, further including a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 11, wherein at least one of the front and back panels is opaque.

15. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 11, wherein the front and back panels

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smoothly transition through semi-circular side edges corresponding to the tubular metal guard rail.

16. (Previously Presented) A cover for a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends, the cover comprising:

spaced-apart, opaque, front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion; and

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface.

17. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 16, further including a fastener for securing the cover to the guard rail.

18. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 16, wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.

19. (Previously Presented) A guard rail assembly, comprising:

a tubular metal guard rail of the type having an outer diameter, two below-ground ends, and a substantially semi-circular above-ground midsection connecting the two ends;

a guard rail cover including two spaced-apart, opaque, front and back panels, each having a flat bottom edge and a semi-circular upper portion; and

wherein the semi-circular upper portions of the front and back panels smoothly transition through an integrally formed semi-circular side edge corresponding to the outer diameter of the tubular metal guard rail, leaving a slot open at the bottom to receive the metal guard rail in slip-fit engagement such that the bottom edges are adjacent the ground surface.

20. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 19, further including a fastener for

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securing the cover to the guard rail.

21. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 19, wherein at least one of the front and back panels includes an advertising display.